



Stefanik Provides Mental Health Resources for Servicemembers, Veterans, and Families

Veteran and military suicide is a top priority for Congresswoman Stefanik as she continues to advocate for our servicemembers, veterans, and their families. Servicemember and veteran suicide is a tragedy affecting far too many of our nation's heroes and their families. The Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) face tremendous challenges in reducing the number of veteran and military suicides.

On September 30, DoD released its annual suicide report for 2020, and in its key findings, the report noted 580 servicemembers died by suicide last year. Of these deaths, the largest group were largely enlisted, male, and less than 30 years of age, regardless of military service. In its own annual suicide report, the VA reported 6,261 veteran suicides in 2019 which accounted for 13.7 percent of all suicides among U.S. adults. Veterans, ages 55 to 74, were the largest subgroup population, accounting for 36.8 percent of those veteran suicides.

Over the past two years, Congress has continued to dedicate time and effort to supporting mental health awareness for servicemembers and veterans. These bills, and dozens of others, have passed the U.S. House of Representatives, and seek to support all those in need of assistance from servicemembers to law enforcement officials.

- H.R.1448 - Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act (Became Law)
- H.R.8247 - Veterans COMPACT Act of 2020 (Became Law)
- H.R.4704 - Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act (Became Law)
- H.R.2333 - Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act (Became Law)
- H.R.2372 - Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act (Became Law)
- H.R.2981 - Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act (Passed House)
- H.R.1480 - HERO Act (Passed House)

Resources

U.S. Military Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 (press 1), or visit: <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

Military/Veteran Crisis Lines: 1-800-273-8255 (press 1), or 1-800-342-9647, or chat online at:

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>; Text: 838255

National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) or TTY: 1-800-799-4889. This hotline is a 24-hour, toll-free suicide prevention service. Or visit: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Fort Drum Behavioral Health: (315) 772-2778

Jefferson County Crisis Response: (315) 782-2327

Jefferson County Mobile Crisis Services: (315) 788-0970

Psychological Health Center of Excellence: Chat with the Real Warriors Live Chat from a trained health resource consultant is ready to assist: https://chat.magellanhealth.com/Cutesoft_Client/CuteChat/DCOE_SupportClient.aspx###

War Veterans Call Center: 1-877-WAR-VETS (1-877-927-8387) for Combat Veterans and their families

Women Veterans Call Center: 1-855-VA-Women (1-855-829-6636); <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/>

In the 117th Congress, Congresswoman Stefanik has cosponsored a number of bills to address suicide prevention and mental health for our service members and veterans:

- H.R.4882 - Connecting the Community to End Military Suicide Act
- H.R.5073 - REACH for Veterans Act
- H.R.5645 – Save Our Servicemembers Act
- H.R.5352 - Military Suicide Prevention in the 21st Century Act
- H.R.2778 - Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act
- H.R.4601 - Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act